

Senate File 265 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 265

BY DANIELSON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a blue alert program within the department of
2 public safety for the apprehension of a person suspected of
3 killing or seriously injuring a peace officer in the line of
4 duty.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 80G.1 Blue alert program —
2 creation.

3 A blue alert program is created as a cooperative effort
4 between the department of public safety and local law
5 enforcement agencies to aid in the apprehension of a person
6 suspected of killing or seriously injuring a peace officer in
7 the line of duty.

8 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 80G.2 Definition.

9 As used in this chapter, "*peace officer*" means the same as
10 defined in section 801.4.

11 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 80G.3 Criteria.

12 A blue alert shall be issued by Iowa state patrol
13 communications upon receipt of a request from a law enforcement
14 agency if the following criteria apply:

15 1. The law enforcement agency has confirmed that a peace
16 officer has been killed or seriously injured in the line of
17 duty and an entry has been made into the Iowa online articles
18 and warrants system providing that a peace officer has been
19 killed or seriously injured. The law enforcement agency
20 shall submit to the department of public safety sufficient
21 information to confirm the death or serious injury of the
22 officer on a form prescribed by the department of public safety
23 prior to a blue alert being transmitted.

24 2. The law enforcement agency has entered descriptive
25 information relating to the suspect.

26 3. There is enough descriptive information about the
27 suspect to ensure that an immediate broadcast of the
28 information will aid in the discovery of the suspect.

29 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 80G.4 Activation and termination.

30 1. Upon establishment of the blue alert criteria in section
31 80G.3, the department of public safety shall transmit a blue
32 alert through the emergency alert system to Iowa broadcasters.

33 2. Upon the transmission of a blue alert the department
34 of public safety shall post the alert on an internet website
35 accessible by the public.

1 3. After an initial blue alert transmission, additional
2 information may be submitted by the participating law
3 enforcement agency by facsimile transmission, electronic mail,
4 or telephonic means.

5 4. The communications officer of the state patrol may
6 direct the transmission of an Iowa blue alert upon request from
7 another state, provided that there is evidence the suspect may
8 be present in Iowa.

9 5. A blue alert shall terminate if the suspect is located or
10 five hours have elapsed since the transmission of the alert.

11 6. A blue alert may be renewed.

12 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 80G.5 Rules.

13 The department of public safety shall adopt rules pursuant
14 to chapter 17A to implement this chapter.

15 EXPLANATION

16 This bill creates a blue alert program within the department
17 of public safety.

18 The bill provides that the purpose of the program is to
19 aid in the apprehension of a person suspected of killing or
20 seriously injuring a peace officer.

21 The bill defines "peace officer" to mean the same as defined
22 in Code section 801.4.

23 Under the bill, a blue alert shall be issued by the
24 department of public safety if the following apply: a law
25 enforcement agency has confirmed that a peace officer has
26 been killed or seriously injured in the line of duty, and
27 an entry has been made into the Iowa online articles and
28 warrants system; the law enforcement agency has entered
29 descriptive information relating to the suspect; and there is
30 enough descriptive information about the suspect to ensure
31 an immediate broadcast of the information will aid in the
32 discovery of the suspect.

33 If the criteria for issuing a blue alert have been
34 established, the department of public safety shall transmit
35 a blue alert through the emergency alert system to Iowa

1 broadcasters. Upon the transmission of the blue alert the
2 department shall also post the alert on an internet website.

3 The bill provides that a blue alert shall be terminated when
4 the suspect is located or five hours after transmission of the
5 alert.

6 A blue alert may be renewed.